Ban on cow slaughter

107. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a complete ban on cow slaughter through a legislation;

(b) if not, what steps Government have taken to persuade the State Governments which do not have State legislations; and

(c) what arc the reasons that Government have not imposed a ban on cow slaughter in accordance with Article 48 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States as enjoined by Article 246(3) of the Constitution, preservation of cattle is a matter on which the Legislature of the State has exclusive powers to legislate.

Most of the States have banned/restricted the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

Drought Hit States

108. SHRI B.J.PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of States are reeling under the impact of severe drought;

(b) if so, what are those States;

(c) whether Orissa is one of those drought affected States;

(d) if so, that areas in the State affected by draughts;

(e) whether the Joint Ministerial Group has met to decided how the drought-hit States would be assisted; and

(f) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK); (a) and (b) Drought like situation is reportedly prevailing in the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) 11914 villages in 19 districts of Orissa are reported to be facing drought like situation.

(e) and (f) 4.95 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allocated free of cost under the Food for Work Programme and 1.70 lakh MTs of "feed grade" foodgrains to be used as cattle feed have been released to the drought affected States. In addition, transportation of water and fodder by the Railways free of cost have been arranged and assistance amounting to Rs. 280 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund has been released to the drought affected States.

Drought in Orissa and Gujarat

109. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Government have declared drought affected areas in Orissa and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the demand made by these States to deal with the drought; and

(d) the assistance extended by the Central Government to these States to combat the drought situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) 11914 villages in 19 districts of Orissa and 10431 villages in 20 districts of Gujarat are facing drought-like situation.

(c) and (d) During 2000-01, Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 131.14 crore to Gujarat and Rs. 82.10 crore to Orissa have been released. 25% of Central share for 2001-02